

Senior Police Officer Bobby Vu receives Purple Heart Award



In the early morning hours of August 25, 2010, Officer Anh Phong “Bobby” Vu #3967 was working a secondary job assignment at an apartment complex. While conducting a routine walk-through of the complex, Officer Vu heard a hissing noise coming from the area of the apartment complex swimming pool. While investigating, he discovered propane fumes spewing from a large, communal fixed gas grill. As Officer Vu attempted to shut off the gas, an explosion occurred causing serious second and third degree burns to his abdomen, arms and legs. Officer Vu either fell or jumped into the pool, and witnesses indicated that he was injured to the point he could not get back out of the pool. Officer Vu was transported to Brackenridge hospital and shortly thereafter transferred to the Brooke Army Medical Center burn unit in San Antonio.

“Officer Vu was technically off-duty just prior to the incident; however, it is clear that his specific actions were in the interest of public safety and that he was performing a public care-taking function and acting as an Austin police officer. Police officers are held to a high standard and serve as public servants and protectors 24/7,” said Chief of Staff, Assistant Chief, David Carter. “Officer Vu’s actions were honorable and reflect diligence and dedication as a police officer and public servant. He undoubtedly will have some permanent injury. Based on the circumstances, it is clear that the Purple Heart should be conferred to Officer Vu.”

On Sunday, August 29, 2010 Chief Acevedo went to visit SPO Vu at Brooke Army Medical Center where he presented him with the Purple Heart award. SPO was joined by his mother.

“For those of you who personally know SPO Vu, you know he is usually happy with a big smile on his face,” said Chief Acevedo. “I am happy to report that yesterday was no different. Bobby is resting comfortably, is alert, and his disposition was very upbeat.”

Congratulations to SPO Vu.